ື່ວ Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000200690009-9 NO CHANGE in Class. CONFIDENTIAL CONTROL ☐ DECLASSIFIED SU.SCOFFICIALS ONLY Class. CHANCED TO: DDA MedGENTRALT INTELLIGENCE GROUP Auth: DDA KEG. HINGENCE REPORT APR 1978 By Date: DATE: COUNTRY Malaya - Siam - Netherlands East Indies 25X1X6 INFO. SUBJECT Opinions expressed by Dato Onn 16 January 1947 PAGES 2 25X1A6a SUPPLEMENT ORIGIN 25X1X6

The opinions of Dato Onn, head of the United Malsys' National Organization, on various topics in Southeast Asian politics, are as follows:

- 1. Malaya Siem Border: Dato Own states the UMNO is aware of Malay-Siems se friction in the southern Siems provinces, but he does not believe the Malays there are sufficiently interested or politically aroused to start a separatist movement for inclusion within the Malayan Union. Shortly after the establishment of the UMNO, Dato Own was visited by a "representative" of the Siemese Malays who presented an unsigned petition requesting UMNO assistance to "deliver the Malays in Siem from the terrible yoke of oppression of the Siemese". Dato Own took no action in the matter for two reasons:
 - a. If the plight of the Malays had really been so serious, it would have come to his attention through more than one source.
 - b. He suspected the "representative" to be an agent of the Siamese officials in the area who were trying to discover how much attention the UMNO was paying to the area and what moves it was contemplating regarding the Malay minority.
- 2. Indonesia: Although Dato Onn expressed a certain amount of confidence in the progress of the Dutch-Indonesian discussions in Batavia, he expecte a deterioration of cohesion among the various Indonesian factions. He stated there is already some dissatisfaction among the Javanese concerning the fact that important cabinet posts were given to Sumatrans. Although he does not expect an immediate aplit between Java and Sumatra, he does anticipate a number of serious internal problems in the young republic.
- 3. Immigration: Malaya may be faced with a labor shortage in early 1947. It is late Onn's hope that with the steady withdrawal of Indian labor this can be replaced by Indonesians from the Minengkabau District in Sumatra, who are closely akin in language, customs and race with the local Malays. (25X1A62 comment: It is quite possible the British may not be anxious to allow a large influx of Sumatran Halays into Malaya, as they have been exposed to Indonesian propaganda and government for over a year.)

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4. Maley Nationalist Party: During their first anniversary celebrations, the MNP claimed a party membership of 100,000, which would represent an increase of

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40,000 since July 1946. Date One explained this saying that one of the Indian rewspapers in Singapore, in an article of the history of the MIP, credited the party with 100,000 members. Rather than officially denying the statement, the MNP decided it was an opportune mement to boost their membership by 40% - thus the figure of 100,000 remains unchallenged.

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